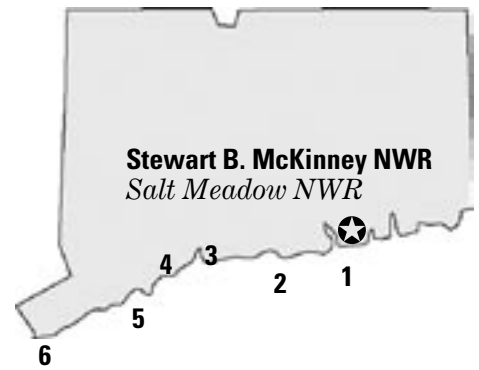


Stewart B. McKinney

National Wildlife Refuge

Fact Sheet



Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D)
Senator Joseph I. Lieberman (D)
Rep. Robert Simmons (R-2nd)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-3rd)
Rep. Christopher Shays (R-4th)

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Purpose

The refuge was established as a breeding ground for migratory birds and other wildlife, for research, and for education.

Public Use Notes

- Visitor contact station
- Interpretive nature trails

Management Activities

- Provide technical and financial support through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to help landowners protect wetland habitat
- Manage waterbird colonies to protect common terns, roseate terns and long-legged waders

- Restore wetlands to benefit wildlife
- Support research projects on roseate terns, piping plovers, long-legged waders, diamond-backed terrapins and intertidal communities
- Provide environmental educational opportunities on Outer Island NWR and other island units

Highlights

Salt Meadow unit serves as the refuge's headquarters and offers many opportunities for observing wildlife.

Great Meadows unit supports many types of migratory birds, including several rare species. It contains the largest unditched tidal high marsh in Connecticut. Access is by nature trail.

Falkner Island unit supports one of the few remaining nesting colonies of endangered roseate terns. The historic Falkner Island Lighthouse is open one day each fall. Ninety-seven percent of Connecticut's common terns nest on the island.

Outer Island unit provides critical habitat for nesting and migrating wildlife. In partnership with the state university system, the Service allows access for education and research purposes.

The Norwalk Islands unit supports significant populations of wintering waterfowl and colonial nesting waterbirds, including herons, egrets and ibises. Access is limited.

Milford Point unit is a nesting area for threatened piping plovers and a staging area for migrating shorebirds. It is one of the best bird viewing areas in Connecticut.

- ★ Salt Meadow NWR
- 1 Falkner Island
- 2 Outer Island
- 3 Milford Point
- 4 Great Meadows
- 5 Norwalk Islands
- 6 Calves Island

Friends groups exist at Salt Meadow, Falkner Island, Outer Island, Milford Point and Great Meadows NWRs.

Issues

Black-crowned night-heron predation of roseate and common terns impacts these protected populations.

Phase I of a multi-million dollar erosion control project on Falkner Island funded by Congress was completed in 2002. Impacts of the Falkner project on the roseate tern need to be monitored.

High deer, exotic animal and invasive plant populations present problems.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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<http://www.fws.gov>

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